



FROM THE BLUFFS OF WYALUSING

Wyalusing State Park
13081 State Park Lane
Bagley, WI 53801
Phone: 608-996-2261
www.wyalusing.org

DATE: Monday, December 30, 2013

TRAIL CONDITIONS: Trails are snow covered. Cross country ski trails were in excellent skiing condition on Saturday, December 28th. But with temperatures reaching 47 degrees and sunny skies, cross country ski trails deteriorated. As of today, ski trails are in fair condition. Ski trails are “skiable”, but there icy spots in places as well as bare spots. Turkey Hollow Trail and the roadway to Henneger Point were groomed and tracked on Sunday, December 29th. Snow is in the forecast from today through Wednesday evening. Even a couple of inches will improve ski trail conditions to good. Parking for all cross country ski trails at Wyalusing State Park is available at the Astronomy Center, which is located just past the park office on the left side of the road. This year, skiers will be able to access the roadway to Henneger Point by crossing the road near the Astronomy Center parking lot and skiing Prairie Trail to Homestead Campground. The south loop of Homestead Campground (sites 245-255) is now groomed and will connect the skier to the roadway to Henneger Point. This is an excellent trail for beginning and novice skiers. Turkey Hollow Trail is the most challenging of the trails at Wyalusing. Whitetail Meadows is an excellent trail for the novice skier. Skiers are welcome to call the park office for current conditions – 608-996-2261. Please do not walk or take pets on the groomed ski trails. Snowshoe enthusiasts enjoy Sand Cave Trail and Sentinel Ridge Trail. Sentinel Ridge can be accessed from Point Lookout and follows the bluff top along the Mississippi River. Frozen waterfalls can be seen along Sand Cave Trail (Big Sand Cave and Little Sand Cave) and at Pictured Rock Cave which is found along Sugar Maple Nature Trail. Sugar Maple Nature Trail and Pictured Rock Cave is accessible by foot only as we do not maintain the road to that area in the winter. Parking is available at the park office.

Bird Feeders at the Wyalusing State Park Office were stocked today. The birds have not realized this yet, but I am sure by the end of today, or during the day tomorrow they will have found the seed.

A Bird Feeding Seminar will be held at Wyalusing State Park on Saturday, February 15th. Participants will make a peanut butter feeder and learn about the feeding habits of winter song birds. We will also enjoy watching the birds at the feeders from the warmth and comfort of the park office. The seminar will start at 10 a.m.

CAMPING AVAILABILITY: Homestead Campground is closed for the season and will reopen on May 1, 2014. The reservation period is over until May 1, 2014. All sites in the Wisconsin Ridge Campground are open on a first-come first-served basis. Showers and flush toilets are closed for the season. All fountains with the exception of the winterized fountain just east of the shower/flush building are closed for the season. Campers are welcome to use their own hose to fill their tanks from this fountain. The Outdoor Group Camp is closed for the season. All reservations for campsites in Wisconsin State Parks are made through Reserve America by calling 1-888-947-2757 or online at www.wiparks.net. Reservations are accepted 11 months in advance.

The Indoor Group Camp is also closed for the season and will reopen in April.

The Concession Stand is closed for the season.

Mississippi River level at Prairie du Chien is 7.94 today. Ice anglers have been reporting limited success at the park's boat landing.

Grab a Friend and take part in the Free Fishing Weekend on January 18th and 19th. No license is required if fishing in Wisconsin on this weekend. For more information, please visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "free fishing weekend". A Wisconsin State Park sticker is required to fish at the park boatlanding.

Save the Date: May 17 & possibly May 18:

Micheline O'Connor, an Avian Zookeeper from the Milwaukee County Zoo will be here to band hummingbirds. More on this to come as we get closer to the date. But it is tentatively scheduled for the morning of May 17th and possibly also on May 18th. The Wisconsin Society of Ornithology (WSO) will hold its 2014 convention in Prairie du Chien. As part of this convention, they will gather at the Passenger Pigeon Monument in the park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 17th for the centenary observance of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction. According to Micheline, the hummingbird population grows each year during the migration, especially when there are many feeders in one location.

Hunting at Wyalusing State Park

The only hunting season currently open at Wyalusing State Park is the Deer Archery Season. The Archery Season will end on January 5th. Only archers with a Park Access Permit for Wyalusing will be allowed to hunt in Wyalusing.

Purchase your 2014 Wisconsin State Park Sticker now.

As 2013 comes to a close, I would like to take this time to thank everyone who makes Wyalusing State Park the great place that it is. Over the years we have come to depend on our volunteers and we truly appreciate all that our volunteers do. I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and the best in 2014.

Upcoming Programs and Area Events

Astronomy Program

Astronomy Programs are done for the year. Programs will resume in May and will be held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month through October. Programs start at 8:30 p.m.